

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 INT-05 FEAE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-07

OMB-01 /102 W

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R 120904Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3987

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5063

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, RP

SUBJECT: AMERICANS TO BE INVOLVED IN DRILLING ON REED BANK

REF: (A) 75 STATE 215761(NOTAL) (B) 75 STATE 304888 (C) MANILA 4023

1. EMBOFF HAS LEARNED FROM RELIABLE TRADE SOURCES THAT THE DRILL BARGE BRINKERHOFF I HAS BEEN CONTRACTED BY THE SALEN GROUP AND WILL BE USED TO DRILL IN THE REED BANK AREA SOME-TIME AFTER EASTER. THIS SAME INFORMATION WAS CARRIED IN DAILY EXPRESS ARTICLE OF APRIL 8.

2. THE BRINKERHOFF IS OWNED BY BRINKERHOFF DRILLING CO., DENVER CLUB BUILDING, DENVER, COLORADO 80202. IT IS THE ONLY OFFSHORE RIG OF THAT FIRM, WHICH OWNS 30-40 LAND RIGS OPERATING MOSTLY IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA. THE BRINKERHOFF HAS DRILLED IN THE PALAWAN/SULU SEA AREA PREVIOUSLY FOR CHAMPAIN, SUN OIL, AND ARCO. IT NORMALLY CARRIES A COMPLEMENT OF 15-20 AMERICAN TECHNICIANS ON BOARD WHEN DRILLING.

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3. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN THE TRADE, SALEN GROUP HAS ALSO FORMED AN OIL EXPLORATION OPERATING ARM TO MANAGE THE DRILLING OPERATIONS. IT IS APPARENTLY TAPPING THE U.S. MARKET TO GET OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING EXPERTISE UNDER DIRECT HIRE. THE COMPANY, SALEN PHILIPPINES, IS HEADED BY AN AMERICAN, BOB CUNNINGHAM. SALEN PHILIPPINES REPORTEDLY HAS AN OFFICE IN HOUSTON, TEXAS MANNED BY 10-15 PEOPLE, PRESUMEDLY AMERICANS. THE DRILLING SUPERVISOR, TO BE RESIDENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, IS CLAUDE WHITEHEAD, ANOTHER AMERICAN.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO GIVE BRINKERHOFF HOME OFFICE POLICY GUIDANCE CITED REFTELS A AND B. EMBASSY WILL ASSURE THAT LOCAL BRINKERHOFF REPS AND MR. CUNNINGHAM OF SALEN PHILIPPINES ARE AWARE OF USG POSITION.
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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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